

1. (Amended) A method for improving a cereal product, said method comprising

AI (a) contacting said cereal product with substantially pure water or with steam, and

(b) drying said cereal product to its original water content, thereby improving the cereal product.

9. (Amended) A method of claim 8, wherein said flaked cereal is selected from the group consisting of a corn flake, a wheat flake, an oat flake, a barley flake, and a rice flake.

REMARKS

I. The Amendments Herein

The amendments herein add no new matter. Claim 1 has been amended to correct language the Action found confusing. Claim 9 has been amended to correct its dependency.

II. Response to the Restriction Requirement and Species Election Requirement

A. Response to Restriction Requirement

The Action imposed a three way restriction on the claims. Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-15, with traverse. While the Action argues that the effects of each group of claims is different, the steps of each method involve contacting the item in question with water or steam and then drying the item. Accordingly, searching the three groups together would not appear to impose a serious burden on the Examiner.

B. Response to Species Election Requirement

The Action requires a species election with respect to claim 9. According to the Action, "Claim 9 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising